

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the embodiment of Fig. 4 with half of a golf ball below the forward extended hosel.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of another preferred embodiment of the present invention with a hosel similar to the embodiment of Figs. 4, 5, and 6 but with a major or majority portion of putterhead weight concentrated within a mass ring concentric about and remote from the putterhead center of gravity.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to the Drawings, Figs. 1, 2 and 3 describe frontal or putterface elevational, side elevational and plan views, respectively, of one embodiment of the present invention in which the forward extending section 1 protrudes forward, generally horizontally, from the putterface 2 above the intended strikepoint 15 at an elevation above the putter soleplane equal to or greater than the diameter of a golf ball (1.68 inches or 4.27 mm) thus avoiding interference or contact with said hosel when a ball is being struck by said putter. In this embodiment said forward extending section 1, protrudes forward from the face a distance approximately equal to a golf ball. The lateral 3 and upward 4 shaft connecting hosel sections are so arranged that the putter shaft 5 does not obscure any portion of a golf ball 6 when viewed from above (Fig. 3). Alternatively, said shaft connecting hosel sections 3 and 4 may be replaced by a bent lower shaft section (not shown). The sight line on the top surface of the forward extending section 1, the "forward extending sight line" 11, and the "rearward extending sight line" 10 on the top surface of the rearward extension 7, together provide a longer sight line than would otherwise be possible without addition of said forward extending section 1 with said forward extending sight line 11. Said rearward extension 7 does not function as a hosel (shaft to clubhead connection), but provides or supports said

rearward extending sight line 10, and may help support the faceplate 2 and said forward extending section 1 through (not shown) or above it (shown), or the sole 8. In this embodiment, the distance between the sole plane of the putterhead 8 and the straight shaft connection point 9 is equal to or slightly less than 5 inches or 12.7 mm as currently required under The USGA Rules of Golf. The end of said upward hosel section 4 is fitted with a stop surface 9 and a slip over protrusion or rod 30 (shown) or socket (not shown) for receiving and attaching via adhesive or other means, a puttershaft 5. That portion of the putterhead with said rearward extension 7 with rearward sight line 10 on top, protruding rearward from the putterface 2 has a length equal to or slightly less than the horizontal width of said putterhead 2. Said forward extending sight line 11 and rearward extending sight line 10 above said forward extending section 1 and rearward extension 7, respectively, are preferably of one color or finish (shown), contrasting with any adjacent putterhead portions visible to a golfer from above, or have a black or dark line (not shown) centered on said surface 10.

Figs. 4, 5, and 6 show a preferred embodiment of the present invention where the forward hosel section 12 extends approximately 1/2 golf ball diameter forward of the putterface 2. The lateral hosel section 13 is longer and may be of thinner section than in the prior embodiment (3 in Figs. 1, 2 and 3). This makes this section 13 and the lower shaft 5 less visible when viewed by a golfer from above (Figs. 3 and 6). To further reduce the shaft connecting hosel section visibility and any related sighting distraction, that portion of the lateral hosel section 3 or 13 or bent lower shaft lying over a golf ball (which ball 6 is touching or near the putterface 2 at or near the intended strikepoint 15) can be painted or finished white or light in color to take such hosel section 3 or 13 out of optical view and blend with the ball below it. To further enhance the sight picture when viewed by a golfer from above, the first several inches of the golf shaft 5 near the hosel

and now directly over the ball can be painted or finished dull green or other dark non-glossy color.

Said rearward extending sight line 10 and forward extending sight line 11 may be on one level, per Figs. 1, 2, and 3 or of differing levels, per the forward extending sight line 16 and rearward extending sight line 17 in Figs. 4, 5, and 6. These sight lines, 16 and 17, may be preferably of white or light finish with a contrasting black or dark sight or aim line 20 (as shown in Fig. 6) or of a single color. The top surface of the putter sole 18 and any other putter surfaces visible to a golfer from above can be of a color contrasting with the color of 10, 16 or 17. In the preferred embodiment of Fig. 6, that portion of the sole plate 18 and other putterhead surfaces visible to a golfer from above which are within 1/2 golf ball diameter of the centerline are of light or white finish, while more remote surfaces, 19 and 20, are of a contrasting dull dark or green finish to take them out of optical view. In this manner, the light or white surfaces, being centered and of approximately one ball diameter in width, establish a sighting field which includes, and is extended by, the golf ball 6 near or contacting the strikepoint 15 of the putterface 2 when viewed by a golfer from above at address. An aim line 20, preferably dark or black, centered on the top surface of the forward extending sight line 16 and rearward extending sight line 17 or the entire top surfaces of 16 and 17, of dark or black finish, can be further extended by placing a dark or black partial or full circumferenced line 21 of similar width on an equator of the golf ball and orientating such line toward the target prior to addressing the ball with a putterhead of the present invention.

Fig. 5 shows that the rearward extension 7 need not be of solid construction to reduce or redistribute putterhead weight. This rearward extension 7 may contain holes or apertures 23, or be made of lighter weight materials (not shown), or supported by structural members 22.

Fig. 7 describes a putterhead of the present invention differing from the prior embodiments with respect to weight distribution within the putterhead. A major or majority portion of putterhead weight is located within a "mass ring" which ring has an outside diameter equal to the maximum horizontal plane distance between the putterhead center of gravity, and an inside diameter equal to 75% of said outside diameter. This weight distribution produces putterheads of extremely high Moment of Inertia (MOI) which reduces distance loss and misdirection whenever a ball is struck on the putterface 2 at a point remote from the intended strikepoint 15 which is directly in front of the putterhead center of gravity point 24.